

DEPARTMENT OF MATERIA MEDICA, THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACY.

SYNONYMS.

"Things which are equal to the same thing are equal to each other."

Few physicians know that many of the "new remedies" marketed under fanciful trade names are identical with remedies having dissimilar names, or are old preparations which have been given fancy names in order to create a false market for the thing in question. For the benefit of physicians and pharmacists the following table has been compiled and will be added to as the requisite information is obtained. The information is secured from chemists and from medical and pharmaceutical journals, and is correct in the main. Should any errors creep in they will be corrected as soon as detected. *Until sufficient evidence to the contrary is forthcoming, it must be assumed that there is no question of substitution involved when the pharmacist supplies a given article under any one of its synonymous names.*

Adeps lane hydrosus.	{ Anasalpin Lanolin Lanum
Bromacetanilid	{ Antiseptin Asepsin
Bismuth-iodo-subgallate	{ Airol Airogen Airoform
Dimethyl-ethyl-carbinol chloral.....	{ Dormiol Amylene-chloral
Dithymol Diiodid	{ Aristol Annidalin Di Thymol Iodid Di Iodo Dithymol (And several other similar names.)
Hexamethylene - tetramine	{ Aminoform Ammonio-formaldehyde Cystogen Formin Saliformin Urotropin
"", anhydromethylen citrate.....	{ Helmitol
Ortho-ethoxy-ana-mono-benzoyl-amido-chinolin	{ *Benzanalgene *Analgen *Quinalgen
Paraphenetin carbamid	{ Dulcin Sucrol
Phenazon (Br. Pharmacopoeia).....	{ Antipyrin Analgesin Methozin Pyrazin Pyrazolin Paradyn Sedatin
Phenylacetamide	{ Acetanlid Antifebrin (And several hundreds of trade names for headache powders, etc.)
Plant pepsin.....	{ Papain Papoid Papayotin Caroid
Salicylic acid ester of quinine.....	{ Salochinin Saloquinin

*Must be very cautiously used, if at all, for the physiologic action is not fully known, and this chemical is said to have very serious effect upon the heart and nervous system.

Salicylate of Salochinin	Rheumatin
Sodium sulpho-cafeate.	{ Narsol Symphoral
Thyroid gland, dried lactose trituration....	{ Iodothyryne Thyroidin
Trioxymethylen.....	{ Paraformaldehyde Paraform Triformol

Acetyl-salicylic acid=Aspirin.
Aluminum aceto-tartrate=Alsol.
Australian oil Eucalyptus=Flucol.
Bismuth beta-naphtholate=Orphal.
Calcium permanganate=Acerdol.
Chloreton, 1% solution=Aneson.
Creosote carbonat=Creosotal.
Fl. extract Tang-Kui=Eumenol.
Guaiacol carbonate=Duotal.
Magnesium dioxid=Biogen.
Saccharin=Garanotose.
Subgallate of bismuth=Dermatol.
Sodium chlorate=Oxychlorine.
Sodium beta-naphtholate=Microcidin.
Trichloracetic acid, 50% solution=Acetocautic.

Goods Subject to Test.

To the Editor of the State Journal:—In your recent report of the proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association at its Mackinac Island meeting, a slight error occurs in quoting my remarks, which misrepresents the attitude of Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co. toward the products of their competitors. The statement attributed to me is that that house claimed that it was the only one whose goods were absolutely reliable. I could hardly have said so since the manager of the house in question has been very careful in his conversations and correspondence with me relative to the bureau, to disclaim this view. On one occasion, when I intimated that houses took this view, he wrote to me that he deprecated comparisons of the kind, and instructed his representatives to avoid disparaging their competitors and to confine themselves strictly to their own business. It was probably my statement that he admitted that he could not accept the goods of any house on trust as to their quality, nor without subjecting them to rigid tests, that misled you.

H. H. RUSBY, M. D.

New York, October 1, 1903.

Plaster of Paris in Asafoetida.

To the Editor of the State Journal:—The inclosed correspondence, consisting of a letter addressed to me by a widely known house, and my reply to the same, bear directly upon matters that have appeared in your JOURNAL and may be of interest to your readers.

Very truly yours,

C. S. N. HALLBERG, Ph.G., M. D.

Professor Hallberg: Dear Sir—We have recently been informed that you examined a sample of our Powd. Asafoetida and found that it contains 80 per cent of plaster of paris. Will you kindly inform us where you got the sample. If there is any plaster of paris in it it was not put there by us. We buy asafoetida in original cases and if there is any plaster of paris in it it is put there before we get it.

It seems to us that before making such a statement you should have communicated with us on the subject.

Yours truly,

Chicago, Sept. 16, 1903.

Messrs. —:—Your letter anent an alleged statement by me was duly received. With reference to the allegation, I have never examined any powdered asafoetida for

impurities nor have I ever stated publicly or privately that your powdered asafetida contained any plaster of paris. Anyone who makes such a statement utters an unqualified falsehood. I have taught for 25 years that powdered asafetida is comparatively inert and that it should not be used. That in order to get it so friable that it may be powdered, the asafetida is heated to drive off the greater portion of the volatile oil. Since the oil is the chief active principle it follows that the gum-resin, deprived of the oil, is comparatively inert. This statement cannot be successfully contradicted. I have, however, stated that much of the asafetida on the market contains plaster of paris and in this I am supported by the authorities. I do remember an article published some 8 or 10 years ago, reporting on the presence of plaster of paris in powdered asafetida, but do not believe any special make or name of manufacturer was given. To the best of my recollection it was a report on drug adulterations, and I have no doubt it is true now as it was then, for if asafetida, as imported, contains plaster of paris, then the powdered should also sometime contain plaster of paris, if the drug miller does not examine the crude article and demand that he gets what he pays for. What are the requirements of the U. S. P., that 60 per cent should be soluble in alcohol for?

Since in your letter you appear to take me to task "for not communicating with you on the subject before making such a statement," I desire to remind you that this is not customary when reports are made on the purity or quality of substances. This very proposition was before the American Pharmaceutical Association at its last meeting at Mackinac and was ridiculed by nearly every manufacturing pharmacist represented. "No," they said, "we do not want any supervision in our business; we do not need any outside authority, as is the proposed bureau, to meddle with our affairs. We know how to run our business. Besides, our goods are all good, but there are goods on the market which should be exposed. Such goods are offered at prices at which our goods cannot be furnished. It is dishonest competition and should be ruthlessly exposed. A bureau, on the other hand, organized for the examination of medicines and exposure of the guilty parties will have our moral and financial support, etc., etc."

In other words, the objection presented by manufacturers to the bureau plan is, because it proposes to do just what you desire. It is suggested that you carefully study the bureau plan as proposed. The unintentional, accidental or ignorant adulteration, or even substitution of medicines, especially of crude drugs or their preparations derived from crude substances, often of foreign origin, need not be a subject for criminal prosecution. Prevention is better than cure. A systematic plan for supervision, inspection and reliable information will correct abuses and be of far greater service to the manufacturer than legal proceedings with the inevitable persecutorial aspect and often injustice. Is it just or honest to jeopardize the reputation of a manufacturer through publicity of some lapsus, often not well authenticated, without affording him an opportunity for its correction?

And above all, let us acknowledge that the scientific work, especially that of chemistry, required in the examination of medicines is not such as can be performed by everybody, and that the results are not by any means always "dead sure." I shall be pleased to learn your views on this important question at your earliest convenience.

Very truly,

C. S. N. HALLBERG, Ph.G., M. D.

Professor of Pharmacy.

NOTICE.

In order that volumes of the STATE JOURNAL may hereafter begin with the January issue, the present volume will include the December number (No. 13). Those who intend to bind their files will therefore wait until they have received the December number. Index to Volume I will be furnished next month.

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